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Chairperson: Mr. Park In-kook ..... (Republic of Korea)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Heller** (Mexico), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the Group was a mechanism for dialogue, consultation and collaboration at the political level which sought to promote democratic values and regional development within the framework of multilateralism and international law. Consequently, the Group considered it crucial to provide a regional perspective to the issues examined by the Committee.

2. Member countries attached great importance to the ad hoc Open-ended Working Group established under General Assembly resolution 63/305 to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, and to implementation of the mandates given to the Economic and Social Council in the Outcome document. After consulting with the Chairs of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council, the Working Group should make recommendations to the General Assembly on ways to remedy the serious flaws in the international economic and financial system and to mitigate the effects of the crisis on development, inter alia, by strengthening the United Nations system.

3. The General Assembly should take note of the Economic and Social Council's recommendations in order to strengthen the follow-up mechanism of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration, as they gave a balanced view of the different positions on financing for development. The United Nations was in an excellent position to take part in the different reform processes, and the Second Committee should make a substantive contribution to the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development to be held in November 2009, which would fuel discussions between the Economic and Social Council and the international financial institutions during the first half of 2010. In that context, it would be interesting to consider the mandates contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development, particularly with regard to improving collaboration and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions. Furthermore, financing for development should be seen as an instrument to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In that context, the issue should be discussed during the preparations for the high-level meeting on the MDGs to be held in September 2010.

4. Trade and investment were essential engines of development, and the Group was concerned about the potential impact on its member countries of the resurgence of protectionism as a response to the current global crisis, particularly measures that could have an adverse impact on their efforts to counteract the negative effects of the crisis and delay recovery. Steps should be taken to ensure that the costs arising from the economic and financial crisis, which had originated in the industrialized world, were not transferred to developing countries, especially the most vulnerable among them. In that context, the Group reaffirmed the legitimate right of developing countries to use safeguard mechanisms to defend national production from serious threats or harm, in keeping with the pertinent World Trade Organization (WTO) provisions.

5. The Doha Round negotiations should be brought to a satisfactory conclusion emphasizing the development dimension. Trade distortion practices should be totally abolished; in particular, developed countries should eliminate subsidies for agricultural exports. The Committee would be examining the report of the Secretary-General on unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries. The Group was extremely concerned about the adverse effects of such measures, especially in its member countries, in the context of the current international economic and financial crisis, and also because of the negative impact of such measures on international cooperation and on the establishment of a fair and non-discriminatory multilateral free trade system. Urgent steps should be taken to prevent the use of those measures against developing countries.

6. Recognizing the relationship between disarmament and development, the Group reiterated its concern regarding global military expenditure, much of which could be redirected at international efforts to promote development and eliminate poverty.

7. The issue of middle-income countries was of special interest to the Rio Group, because such countries had specific needs and required the continued support of the international community in order to consolidate their gains in the area of development and to avoid setbacks. In that context, it welcomed the

report of the Secretary-General on development cooperation with middle-income countries that was on the Committee's agenda. Furthermore, it called on the international community to pay attention to the specific needs of the region's landlocked developing countries.

8. South-South cooperation should be complementary and never replace North-South cooperation or exempt donor countries from their responsibilities and commitments towards developing countries. Nevertheless, it had proved to be an effective tool in international development efforts, and preparations for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in Kenya in December 2009 should occupy a prominent place during the Committee's current session. The Group understood that the Conference would examine the changes that had occurred and the progress made over the last 30 years and that, during the preparation process, discussions would be held on issues of interest to all Member States in order to reach a consensus that reflected the importance of international efforts to support South-South development cooperation. In that regard, the Group highlighted the importance of the role played by South-South cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. On the issue of food security, the international community should urgently adopt comprehensive and coordinated measures at the multilateral and regional levels to overcome the food crisis and alleviate its effects on the most vulnerable, in the context of the current global economic crisis. Decisive measures should be taken to promote investment in the agricultural sector, while avoiding speculation and price volatility in food markets and ensuring full access to food for all. Furthermore, obstacles to market access for the agricultural products of developing countries should be combated in order to stimulate agriculture worldwide. Conditions must be created to develop national agricultural systems sustainably. Hence, it was essential to transfer appropriate technology to developing countries in order to increase agricultural yields and guarantee the current and future food supply for the growing world population. In addition, international scientific research cooperation should be supported, and cooperation in relation to food security should be provided to all developing countries and regions that needed it in order to resolve the crisis without causing further harm to natural resources or widening the agricultural divide. Moreover, greater complementarity and coherence among international and regional organizations should be encouraged to avoid the duplication and proliferation of food security initiatives.

10. A comprehensive approach to sustainable development was needed based on coordinating economic and social development with environmental protection. Actions in that area were especially relevant for the Group's member countries that were facing significant problems as a result of the current crises and the effects of climate change; the consequences could be devastating if adequate measures were not taken. It therefore called again on the developed countries to meet their corresponding commitments, particularly as regards granting financial assistance and transferring technology to developing countries. Lastly, the Group indicated its willingness to undertake discussions with other groups or individuals in order to identify matters of mutual interest to be promoted in the different negotiation mechanisms.

11. **Ms. Moses** (Nauru), speaking on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States, namely Fiji, Micronesia (the Federated States of), Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu, and her own country, said that the work of the Second Committee was of crucial importance to those States because, as the international community had recognized, they faced significant vulnerabilities which prevented them from achieving sustainable development.

12. The Barbados Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island States and the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation of the Plan of Action, the Monterrey Consensus and the Millennium Declaration were playing a significant role in helping them overcome their weaknesses; however, specific actions to achieve the objectives of those agreements remained inadequate, owing to the lack of technical, financial and human resources, exacerbated by the global economic crisis. Also, overall progress in achieving the MDGs remained too slow due, in part, to insufficient donor assistance. Official development assistance (ODA) remained distressingly short of the agreed target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI). The global economic crisis should not deter developed countries from providing the assistance required to achieve the MDGs; moreover, it was urgent to reform the global financial architecture, as that would go a long way towards strengthening the global economy and protecting the poor and vulnerable.

13. The United Nations should increase its presence in the region by opening offices in each of the Pacific small island developing Member States so as to allow them full access to the United Nations agencies and their services. Furthermore, it should work closely with national Governments and regional organizations to help gather accurate data and statistics to enable the countries to monitor their own social and economic progress.

14. Climate change and sea-level rise were the most pressing security issues facing the Pacific region; in the coming decades, tens of thousands of people faced displacement and the region's sustainable development was being undermined. The islands' ability to provide the necessary means of subsistence for their people was threatened, and they would not feel truly secure until the climate crisis was adequately addressed. While the renewed enthusiasm to respond to climate change expressed during the general debate of the General Assembly was welcome, rhetoric alone was insufficient. For the Pacific small island States to have any hope of achieving sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, any agreement reached in Copenhagen should protect the most vulnerable nations and incorporate the elements set out in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) Declaration on Climate Change 2009.

15. An essential component of their position was the need for new financing and technology transfer to assist with mitigation and adaptation, over and above agreed development assistance. The limited population of many islands and the small scale of the adaptation projects specifically excluded them from the eligibility criteria of many financing opportunities. In addition, they lacked the human capacity to comply with all the obligations. The cooperation of the United Nations and other donors was required to develop a Pacific Template, a set of project financing guidelines endorsed by relevant stakeholders that would help streamline access to adaptation and mitigation funding for Pacific island communities. The international community's failure to meet existing ODA commitments and to pledge and deliver the necessary assistance for mitigation and adaptation to climate change was undermining the legitimacy of the entire United Nations system. The Pacific small island States were facing almost insurmountable obstacles to achieving sustainable development, but were willing to do whatever was required to achieve real momentum towards sustainable development for their peoples.

16. **Mr. Galvez** (Chile) said that the poorest and most vulnerable economies could not continue waiting for the developed countries to fulfil their financial commitments. Chile trusted that the United Nations system would continue to examine the issue through the Open-ended Working Group mandated to follow up on the commitments made during the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development held in June 2009. The Committee should also make a substantive contribution to the preparations for the high-level meeting on the MDGs to be held in 2010.

17. The Summit on Climate Change convened by the United Nations Secretary-General in September 2009 had been an excellent opportunity for countries to share their experiences at the highest level and to send a clear message of commitment to the environment prior to Copenhagen. Furthermore, it was important to develop the planet's enormous agricultural potential by a more comprehensive liberalization of international trade in agricultural products as one of the expected results of the Doha Round, as well as through bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements.

18. Close collaboration between the preparations for the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held in Kenya in December 2009, and the work of the Second Committee was important because, in the coming weeks, the smaller delegations from developing countries that considered triangular and South-South cooperation to be an effective development tool would have to address both tasks simultaneously.

19. Lastly, his delegation recommended that parallel events proposed during the session should be of real interest to the delegations, so as to avoid overloading the Committee's agenda with unnecessary activities. Moreover, the election of participants and panellists should take account of equitable geographical distribution.

20. **Mr. Bui The Giang** (Viet Nam) said that the international community was facing formidable challenges in all aspects of development owing to the global economic downturn. Developing countries, especially the least developed countries with vulnerable economies, were facing increasing difficulties in achieving equitable growth and

development. In many cases, progress towards achieving the MDGs had ceased or fallen behind schedule. Consequently, the synergy of the entire international community was needed to address the challenges, and the United Nations should be strengthened so that it could play a central role in the overall response to the global challenges. Member States should fulfil their international commitments and promote global cooperation and partnerships. Developing countries should increase their efforts to improve governance and the use of the increasingly scarcer resources. Developed countries should do more to assist developing countries by promoting trade, mobilizing development resources, rescheduling debt, transferring technology and facilitating participation in the international financial architecture in order to build a better world.

21. Viet Nam had made every effort to overcome the negative impact of the global crisis on the country, especially in rural areas where nearly 70 per cent of the population lived. It had adopted a wide range of economic policies and measures, including several stimulus packages to curb economic slowdown, promote growth and ensure social security, and had adjusted its policies to ensure recovery from the crisis and more sustainable development in the long-term, with excellent results. However, international support and assistance were required in order to achieve full recovery and sustainable development. Viet Nam was prepared to cooperate with other countries throughout the process.

22. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that although the world economy showed some signs of recovery, the impact of the worldwide financial and economic crisis was still in evidence in many developing countries where there had been an increase in poverty, a rise in unemployment, a reduction in exports, a reduction in direct foreign investment and a fall in the earnings of their workers abroad.

23. The momentum of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development must be maintained and built upon. The United Nations should not spare its efforts to bring about a radical reform of the international economic and financial system so as to meet the needs of the twenty-first century, including the reform of the institutions of the Bretton Woods system involving increased representation of the developing countries, abolition of the political conditionality attached to the loans granted by those institutions and the participation of the developing countries in international financial and economic decision-making.

24. The Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan since 1967 had deprived the Syrian economy of outstanding agricultural, human and water resources. The Occupying Power continued to exhaust the natural resources of the Golan, denying Syrians the right to make use of them and engaging in irresponsible practices that seriously degraded the environment. He called on the Committee to draw attention to the economic, environmental and social impact of the foreign occupation, which had been acknowledged by reports and resolutions of the United Nations, in particular General Assembly resolution 63/201. The impact of foreign occupation was all the more severe for the population who were already suffering from the crisis that affected every aspect of their economic, financial, social and political existence.

25. The developing countries continued to encounter obstacles to membership in WTO, a fact that hindered their efforts to achieve economic development and integration in the world economy. His country had officially applied to join WTO in 2001 but, because of the opposition of one influential member, the application had not been placed on the agenda of WTO despite the reaffirmation of the application in 2004 and the measures taken by the Syrian Government in preparation for membership. He called on the Committee to reaffirm the importance of not politicizing the process of joining WTO or using it as a means of exerting political pressure. It was essential to implement General Assembly resolution 62/184 on international trade and development, which called for facilitating the accession of all developing countries to membership in WTO.

26. The unilateral economic measures imposed on some of the developing countries by certain developed countries undermined the international trading system and impeded the efforts of the developing countries to build their own economies, face up to the world economic and financial crisis and achieve sustainable development. In 2004, in breach of the principles of international trade and of international law, the United States of America had taken unilateral trade measures against the Syrian Arab Republic which were still in force. His delegation condemned any State that took or encouraged unilateral action as a coercive measure against another State in order to impose on it a state of subservience in the exercise of its political rights, and

called for compliance with General Assembly resolution 26/183 entitled "Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries".

27. **Mr. Shalgham** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the right to development should be a tangible reality, but the response to the repeated requests of many developing countries, including the least developed, for support for their development programmes was inadequate to enable them to attain their goals. Those requests arose from a historic claim against the colonialist countries to compensation for the material and human damage of colonialism. Acknowledgement of that right by the international community would do much to resolve the international difficulties and crises that gave rise to illegal immigration and political and social instability in many regions of the world. His delegation looked forward to the international summit to be held in 2010 to review progress towards attainment of the MDGs.

28. Many countries, especially the poorer ones, sometimes faced acute food crises which condemned millions of people to a cycle of hunger and poverty. The international policies of the past two decades had not adequately addressed the threats to food security, which were exacerbated by the increase in population and the impact of climate change, the fall in agricultural output and the misdirection of capital to speculation on food prices. The developing countries should be encouraged to invest in agriculture and the rich countries should abandon the policy of protecting their agricultural produce. That would facilitate competition and open the way for developing countries to increase their agricultural output.

29. His country had put policies into effect to increase food production and had taken part in efforts to ensure food security throughout the African continent. It had allocated the sum of 8 billion United States dollars to finance food production projects in a number of Sahelian and Saharan countries, and its Head of State had put forward an initiative to contain the hunger crisis in Africa through self-sufficiency and the utilization of modern machinery and technology to reclaim land in Africa and bring vast areas under cultivation. As a contribution to that project, his country had donated 300 agricultural tractors to a number of African countries together with quantities of fertilizer and seeds, and had conducted a major campaign to inoculate cattle in twelve African States.

30. His country supported international efforts to reach a comprehensive international agreement on the second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol on climate change which should be based on the principle agreed in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, namely that all States had common but differentiated responsibilities. The people of poor countries were more at risk from climate change and were the first to suffer from the greenhouse gases produced by the advanced countries. It was therefore incumbent on other countries to support development plans and programmes for those countries and encourage national policies to alleviate the impact of climate change, in particular by providing know-how and training opportunities and facilitating their access to technology. The effort to limit emissions should not be restricted to research on renewable energy, but should also include the promotion of modern technology for the production of clean energy from fossil fuels. His delegation hoped that all parties would show the necessary flexibility and the political will to reach a comprehensive international agreement concerning climate change at the forthcoming conference in Copenhagen.

31. The current financial crisis was the result of an international monetary and economic system formed over the course of over 60 years and governed by unjust principles. The developing countries had asked repeatedly for radical reform of the international financial institutions to ensure that they were strongly represented and could play an effective role within those institutions in devising humane and development-oriented international monetary policies. The policies of the Group of 20 (G-20) designed to stimulate the world economy had been adopted in the absence of the countries that were most affected by the financial crisis, but had not caused it. The G-20 should be expanded to include regional blocs that would express the concerns of all. The Addis Ababa Declaration on the International Financial Crisis had expressed regret at the underrepresentation of Africa in the G-20. Many of the countries of Africa, including his own, depended on the export of a single commodity and were seriously affected by price fluctuations resulting from the financial crisis; their capacity to finance sustainable development programmes and attain the MDGs was thus impaired. The increase in illegal migration caused by the crisis posed problems to both transit countries and destination countries. Development of the productive sectors of countries of origin must be encouraged so as to achieve sustained

economic development to provide for the economic well-being and social stability of the unemployed.

32. Strengthened cooperation between the countries of the South would be an important step in the joint exploitation of natural and human resources. Implementation of the recommendations of the summit conferences of the countries of the South would serve to improve their economic performance and raise their standard of living. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the convening of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held shortly in Kenya.

33. In conclusion, he reiterated his country's commitment to sustainable development to satisfy present needs without impairing the capacity of future generations to meet their own needs. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was eager to continue to strengthen its national economy and improve its performance in various areas as well as to encourage foreign participation in productive and service-oriented projects. It also looked forward to active participation in world trade, and sought the support of all members of WTO for its efforts to become a member of the organization.

34. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal) said that the current financial crisis, which had spared no country, was a forceful reminder of the world's interdependence and the urgent need for a coherent multilateral approach to the resulting problems. The decisions and guidelines contained in the Outcome of the June 2009 Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development and the measures proposed by the Group of 20 suggested solutions that would help overcome the crisis. However, although the effects of the financial crisis on the developed countries were beginning to fade, its consequences for the developing economies were far from over, particularly with respect to the food crisis and the obstacles to achieving the MDGs. The magnitude of the capital mobilized following the economic crisis revealed that the financial resources to win the war against hunger existed, but were beyond the reach of the poorer countries where those who were hungry lived.

35. Nevertheless, those countries had undertaken actions to limit the effects of the crises; for example, Senegal had provided substantial direct and indirect subsidies to reduce the impact of the unprecedented increases in food and oil prices. In addition, in 2008, the country had launched a programme to reduce its dependence on food imports by increasing national production of rice and cereals. The rural revolution was also designed to convert agriculture into a mechanism for strengthening the economy, and focused on creating farmers' associations and rural banks as tools for enhancing capabilities and financing activities, respectively. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) was another means of eradicating hunger and food insecurity, reducing poverty and increasing export opportunities. Nevertheless, solutions to the current crises evidently required significantly more resources than the African countries were able to provide within the framework of national and regional initiatives. Thus, the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 depended on the availability and accessibility of sufficient resources.

36. The recent Summit on Climate Change had resulted in a strong political message, which Senegal hoped would be echoed in Copenhagen. A reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases was urgent, and Africa was ready to contribute to the global effort to achieve the Global Green New Deal, provided its economic development was not jeopardized. Thus, Africa required the means, not only to ensure each country's development, but also to take measures to adapt to the effects of climate change. Several initiatives had already been implemented, including the Great Green Wall, a green band of trees stretching from Dakar to Djibouti that, once complete, would benefit the entire planet. However, whatever actions the developing countries undertook, without a clear commitment from the developed countries to make adequate resources available on a non-discriminatory basis, there was a high risk that the efforts made to find an acceptable and effective post-Kyoto system would prove to be in vain in Copenhagen.

37. Lastly, other global commitments in favour of development should be implemented in order to help the efforts of the poorest and most vulnerable countries overcome poverty. That involved the fulfilment of commitments concerning assistance and financing, but also fair international trade free from the agricultural subsidies and protectionism that had played a major role in destroying the economic and social fabric of Africa's developing countries.

38. **Mr. Benmehidi** (Algeria) said that the current international financial crisis, the decline in agricultural

commodity markets and problems caused by climate change posed particularly severe challenges to developing countries, especially those in Africa, thereby severely jeopardizing their progress towards attainment of the MDGs. The achievement of the Goals and other international development objectives must remain a priority for the United Nations.

39. His delegation welcomed the consensus adopted in the Outcome of the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. Concrete measures should be implemented, particularly with respect to global governance of international finance, international trade and sustainable development, and international financial institutions should provide long- and short-term financing focusing on socio-economic development. The international community should establish a development-oriented international monetary and financial system that was inclusive, transparent and regulated.

40. His delegation hoped that the political will Member States had demonstrated at the Summit on Climate Change would lead to an equitable agreement at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen that would benefit the entire international community. Negotiations to that end should be conducted in full compliance with the principles of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol thereto, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. The agreement should also unambiguously enunciate the expectations of African and other developing countries with regard to financing and the transfer of technology. The challenges of poverty elimination were exacerbated by climate change, and those issues must be addressed in tandem. More forceful action was needed to assist the poorest and most vulnerable members of society, as well as regions affected by drought, flooding, soil degradation and desertification.

41. Measures to eradicate extreme poverty and ensure sustainable development were essential when tackling food insecurity. In that connection, the World Summit on Food Security, to be convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome in November 2009, should establish more coherent and efficient national and international mechanisms for ensuring food security.

42. In conclusion, he said that his country attached great importance to strengthening South-South cooperation, particularly in the current global context. Such cooperation should be guided by principles based on solidarity.

43. **Mr. Webb** (United States of America) urged the Committee to strive for consensus and cooperation and invigorate its constructive engagement on the crucial issues of sustainable economic development comprising its agenda.

44. Many countries continued to suffer the knock-on effects of the financial and economic crisis. Although many countries had taken swift and decisive action to stabilize the world economy, address the root causes of the crisis and position themselves for renewed growth, it was important to remain vigilant in order to ensure a return to world growth. It was essential to be particularly mindful of the impact of the crisis on the poorest and most vulnerable countries.

45. At the Pittsburgh Summit 2009, the G-20 had agreed to sustain national stimulus plans until growth was restored; had adopted a Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth; and had pledged to take concrete steps to reform domestic and international financial regulations, to phase out fossil fuel subsidies and to take steps towards reforming the system of global economic cooperation and governance. His delegation looked forward to a vigorous discussion of those issues in the Committee and at the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development in November 2009.

46. The G-20 and other multilateral economic institutions and processes must work in partnership, complementing one another's strengths and comparative advantages and combining capable, effective leadership and initiative with durable global consensus-building. The United Nations, with its broad representation and longstanding experience dealing with countries in special situations, and the Second Committee, with its focus on the development perspective, had a major role to play in the discussions. Deliberations should focus first and foremost on strategies for promoting development in the midst of multiple global challenges.

47. The recent decision by the General Assembly to establish a new United Nations gender entity demonstrated a new level of global recognition for the vital role of women in economic and social

development and in promoting peace and security. The Committee should systematically reflect gender perspectives in its resolutions, and the new entity should be established quickly, should be structured to ensure effectiveness and should be headed by a strong leader.

48. With regard to the critical challenge of climate change, Member States owed it to their citizens and future generations to give full support to the efforts of the negotiators in Copenhagen to prepare a global post-2012 climate agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

49. In the area of science and technology for development, he underscored the important role of cybersecurity in promoting and protecting economic development

50. Lastly, he said that his delegation looked forward to laying a solid foundation during the current session of the General Assembly for the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to promote more rapid progress towards the attainment of the MDGs.

51. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the developing countries, which had played no role in bringing about the economic and financial crisis, were bearing the brunt of its impact and did not have adequate resources with which to salvage their economies. Owing to increasing financial and economic interdependence, and notwithstanding efforts at the national and international levels to assist them, the developing countries, particularly the poorest among them, were increasingly prone to external fluctuations.

52. The United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development had provided an opportunity to increase the resilience of developing countries in response to external shocks. It was to be hoped that the establishment of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group of the General Assembly to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference and of the ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development would reduce the vulnerability of developing countries as they confronted economic and financial difficulties.

53. His delegation once again urged the developed countries to establish timetables for achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of GNI for ODA to developing countries by 2015 in order to help those countries meet their development goals and the MDGs in a timely manner.

54. The United Nations had a critical role to play in strengthening the global partnership for development, based on the recognition of national ownership and national development strategies, and in securing full implementation of agreed development goals and commitments.

55. The 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the MDGs should take stock of existing gaps in the achievement of the Goals and identify actions — including strengthening international cooperation — needed to place their achievement back on track and maintain the momentum. Adequate financial and technical resources should be allocated in the case of targets which lagged furthest behind.

56. No country or group of countries, no matter how big or powerful, had the right to issue mandates and set tasks for international institutions with a broader membership. The conduct of the G-20 in that regard was unacceptable. Countries which were not members of such exclusive clubs had no obligation to abide by their decisions. He reiterated his delegation's call for the United Nations itself to address the problem of persistent systemic inequities in international economic relations, in particular the unacceptable lack of sufficient progress in enhancing the participation of developing countries in international financial and monetary institutions.

57. Given the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation, which complemented North-South and triangular cooperation, his delegation hoped that the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in December 2009 would prove successful.

58. His delegation had taken note of the progress made thus far in the deliberations on United Nations system-wide coherence and looked forward to thorough, balanced and genuine coherence that would enable the United Nations to fulfil its mandates effectively in all major areas of interest to the General Assembly.

59. With regard to sustainable development, he said that eradicating poverty, changing unsustainable

patterns of production and consumption and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development were overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. A balance must be ensured among economic development, social development and environmental protection, which were interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development.

60. It was imperative to address climate change within the context of sustainable development and to adhere to internationally agreed principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. Industrialized countries, particularly the most developed among them, bore the major responsibility for greenhouse gas emissions and should take the lead in mitigating their impact. All impediments to the transfer of climate change technologies to developing countries must be eliminated.

61. The needs of developing countries in the four major components of the Bali Action Plan, namely mitigation, adaptation, finance and technology should be addressed as an integral part of any post-Kyoto agreement and should preserve the right of those countries to access technology, know-how and finance, with a view to enabling them to protect their ecological sustainability and socio-economic prosperity and achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, particularly the goal of poverty eradication.

62. Equal efforts were also needed to address other environmental issues such as deforestation, desertification and loss of biodiversity, which threatened the livelihoods of billions of people.

63. In recent years, dust storms and sandstorms had wreaked substantial socio-economic damage in the western half of his country. A regional approach to those consequences of environmental degradation was essential, and Iran stood ready to enter into bilateral and multilateral arrangements to identify the root causes and eradicate them in a collective, coordinated and cooperative manner involving all stricken countries and relevant international institutions.

64. **Mr. Ben Tura** (Israel) said that bold collective action was needed to overcome the universal threat of climate change. His country was committed to achieving the goals enunciated in the declaration adopted at the Summit on Climate Change. As a committed party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention and the post-2012 negotiations, it hoped that substantial progress would be made at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. A future climate change regime should take into account national, social, economic and environmental circumstances and all countries should commit to it in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.

65. Solutions to the financial and economic crisis must pay special attention to its adverse impact on the most vulnerable populations. Common and coordinated action must be taken to diminish the negative impact of the crisis on the internationally agreed development goals, particularly the MDGs. To that end, Israel, in partnership with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI), would host a conference in November 2009 on the financial implications of the current crisis for women.

66. Food security remained a matter of serious concern. His delegation planned to introduce a draft resolution on agricultural technology for development calling upon Member States to develop and implement sustainable agricultural technologies as a means to combat poverty and hunger and ensure better production and safer land use. The draft resolution would build upon General Assembly resolution 62/190 — which his delegation had been pleased to have drafted and co-sponsored — and he urged consensus on the matter.

67. Israel had taken important steps towards achieving the MDGs, in particular through its cooperation with developing countries. Such efforts included assistance to Africa provided in line with guidelines of the New Partnership for Africa's Development through MASHAV, the Foreign Ministry's centre for international cooperation. The Third International Conference on Drylands, Deserts and Desertification: The Route to Restoration would be held in Israel in 2010.

68. With regard to health and population growth, his country looked forward to chairing the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development. Many health matters vied for resources and it was important to focus on those that were most

pervasive and on which the impact could be the greatest, including pneumonia.

69. Women's empowerment was intrinsically linked to all of the issues dealt with in the Committee. Women bore the heaviest burdens when disasters struck, crises arose and Governments failed. The Committee must intensify its efforts to guarantee that girls and women had the same opportunities as boys and men.

70. **Mr. Ali** (Malaysia) said that the United Nations should focus on defining its role in efforts to improve the global economy, particularly with regard to the establishment of the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth adopted at the recent G-20 Summit and to its relationship with the emerging structure of global governance.

71. The key issue was how to address imbalances in the global economy, particularly the supply disruptions caused by the crisis, and the global pattern of demand. Most developing countries had invested heavily in an export-driven model, and changes would result in dislocation and high social adjustment costs. Sufficient time had yet to be devoted to measures to mitigate adjustment costs. Given its wealth of analytical and operational expertise, the United Nations was especially well-equipped to address those issues.

72. When considering the new Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth, the United Nations should advocate the view that global growth and social progress were global public goods; formulate concrete views on components of the framework; make better use of the Organization's unrivalled ability to predict medium- and long-term trends; and, drawing on best practices worldwide, recommend the best ways to minimize adjustment costs.

73. The recent Pittsburgh Summit had designated the G-20 as the participants' primary forum for their international economic cooperation. Although the G-20 was far more representative than the G-8, questions remained as to how representative and inclusive it truly was. The challenge for the G-20 process was how to make it more legitimate and more effective.

74. In addressing ways to maximize cooperation within the G-20, the Group must simultaneously consider how to improve links with the broader international community. The Group could complement the work of the United Nations, for example, by having the chairperson of its Summit address relevant meetings of the Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, inasmuch as the G-20 often requested the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and even the United Nations to undertake certain measures, questions arose as to the governance structures of those bodies and the prerogatives of their members.

75. **Mr. Aongola** (Zambia) said that the global financial and economic crisis had had a severe impact on commodity-dependent economies, particularly those reliant on primary commodity exports. The Zambian economy had been severely affected by the plunge in copper prices, inasmuch as copper mining accounted for approximately 70 per cent of the country's exports and almost 10 per cent of total formal employment. That problem, along with a slowdown in other sectors, had negatively affected Government revenues and expenditure even in critical social sectors such as health, education, water and sanitation. Before the crisis his country had been on course to meet all but one of the MDGs relating to the environment. Without assistance from the international community, Zambia might now reach only one of those goals.

76. High transportation costs ascribable to Zambia's landlocked status had made matters worse. Zambia had responded with a number of policy measures, including diversifying the economy by developing agriculture, tourism, and manufacturing, and by improving the business environment. Nevertheless, a coordinated global response was required. In that connection, his delegation welcomed the leadership of the United Nations at the World Conference on the Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development. As a co-facilitator, together with Norway, of the Ad Hoc Working Group that would follow up on the issues addressed in the Outcome of the Conference, his delegation pledged to carry out its role effectively and invited advice and suggestions from Member States.

77. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change remained the most appropriate forum for international negotiations on climate change, and international efforts to address climate change must be channelled and coordinated through it. Zambia expected the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to reach an agreement in Copenhagen that would provide massive, scaled-up and predictable support for implementation and consolidate an international programme of work on implementation of

adaptation measures, established in a binding legal instrument under the Convention.

78. With regard to mitigating the impact of greenhouse gas emissions, an equitable burden-sharing mechanism should be adopted under which developed countries would commit to absolute and legally binding emissions reductions and developing countries would take meaningful action to ensure substantial deviations from business as usual.

79. The inclusion of sustainable development on the Committee's agenda required that sufficient time be allocated for serious discussions of all matters pertaining to poverty, trade, finance and partnerships, among others. His delegation welcomed the inclusion of the item on agriculture development and food security and hoped that its inclusion would strengthen the agriculture programme of the United Nations and yield real benefits to the developing countries.

80. **Mr. Alkulaib** (Kuwait) urged further discussion of the causes of the recent global financial crisis and of ways to avoid similar crises in the future. Resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in Kuwait in January 2009 aimed at achieving economic prosperity, social advancement and sustainable development. He underscored the commitment of his country to the Outcome adopted at the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development in June 2009.

81. With regard to climate change, his country had high hopes for the Copenhagen conference and urged States to work together to achieve positive results. In that connection, Kuwait had pledged US$ 150 million at the Summit of Heads of State and Government of members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries for research on energy and climate change.

82. The Committee should devote sufficient attention to matters relating to poverty and starvation and seek practical solutions to alleviate the plight of the poor. It also should devote similar attention to the question of total and permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people over their land, including East Jerusalem, and the question of providing the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan with sovereignty over their natural resources.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.